

look at places like Georgia. It has been established that, when photo ID requirements were added, there were actually more minorities that voted after that. It didn't just disfranchise the minority. What it disenfranchised were people that wanted to vote as illegal aliens or illegally.

But parenthetically, Mr. Speaker, I can't help but wonder if you were the head of a political party, hypothetically, if you were the head of a political party and your party believed their hope for winning the next election was to get people who were felons to vote, whether they reformed or not, maybe it is time to take a look at what your party stands for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING THE FINCA VIGIA FOUNDATION: A VERY SPECIAL U.S.-CUBA COLLABORATION TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE THE CUBAN HOME OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Finca Vigia Foundation, based in Massachusetts, and the extraordinary model it provides of what Americans and Cubans working together can accomplish.

Over the past 13 years, this special collaboration has restored and protected the home, documents, and related materials of Ernest Hemingway's home in Cuba, the Finca Vigia, located 12 miles outside of Havana, in the village of San Francisco de Paula.

Like so many stories on Capitol Hill, this one began when a visitor from Massachusetts walked into my office. Jenny Phillips had an interesting story to tell because her grandfather was Ernest Hemingway's editor and long-time friend, Maxwell Perkins.

She and her husband, Frank, had traveled to Cuba earlier that year to visit the Finca Vigia, which the Cubans had lovingly cared for and operated as a museum since Hemingway's death. We are grateful to those Cubans because there would be no Hemingway House without their decades of devotion to his memory and his legacy.

In addition to touring the house and grounds, Jenny and Frank also saw thousands of Hemingway documents and photographs that were in boxes and containers in the basement, most unknown to writers and researchers. They recognized the priceless value of these papers to Hemingway scholars worldwide, but they also knew that the political divide between the United States and Cuba made their preservation and accessibility a problem.

Listening to her describe what was at stake, we took the first steps that would result in a wonderful binational process to save Hemingway's docu-

ments; preserve the architecture and physical structure of his home; restore his famous boat, the Pilar; and conserve and protect the contents of his home, including original furniture, clothing, a 9,000-volume library, original galley proofs and manuscripts, and over 4,000 photographs. Time and tropical climates are not kind to these delicate materials.

Partnering with the Social Science Research Council here in the United States, the Cuban Ministry of Culture, and the Cuban National Cultural Heritage Council, the CNPC, a plan of action was outlined to carry out a joint preservation project in Cuba and to conserve digitized and microfilm copies of all documents located in Hemingway's home to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum and to the Cuban National Cultural Heritage Council.

In 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Eric Hershberg with the Social Science Research Council; Dr. Marta Arjona Perez of the CNPC; and witnessed by Frank and Jenny Phillips; Sandra Spanier with Pennsylvania State University and general editor of the Hemingway Letters Project; Sean, Angela, and Hilary Hemingway, who are the grandson, daughter-in-law, and niece of Ernest Hemingway; President Fidel Castro; and myself. Dozens of Cubans and Americans attended the signing, including my wife, Lisa.

Since then, scores of Cubans and Americans have worked together to make the dream of preserving this priceless legacy of Ernest Hemingway a reality.

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This includes officials at the State Department, at the Commerce Department, and at the Department of the Treasury in both the Bush and Obama administrations who recognized the importance to America and the world in saving Hemingway's cultural history in Cuba and helped the project navigate the complicated requirements of U.S. regulations and license applications.

I would especially like to note and thank the many Cuban cultural officials and preservation, architectural, museum, and technical experts who made this dream come true. And I apologize if I leave anyone out.

I would like to begin with Cuban President Fidel Castro, whose unconditional support was essential to moving this project forward, as well as Josefina Vidal during her service at the Cuban Interests Section here in Washington and later, following her return to Havana.

I want to highlight the role of then-Minister of Culture, the iconic Abel Prieto, who was such an enthusiastic and encouraging voice when we first began reaching out to Cuban officials in 2002, as well as his successors, Rafael Bernal and the current Minister of Culture, Julian Gonzalez Toledo.

Central to the success of the restoration and preservation of Hemingway's house, grounds, and its contents are:

Marta Arjona Perez, now deceased, who was the visionary voice on the project when she was president of the Cuban National Cultural Heritage Council, the CNPC;

Gladys Collazo Usallan, who is the current president of the CNPC, as well as her predecessors Manuel Palacios Soto and Margarita Ruiz Brandi;

Nestor Garciaga, vice president of the CNPC and chief conservator of the Hemingway papers;

Gladys Rodriguez Ferrero, long associated with the Hemingway collection and buildings and the former director of The Finca Vigia Museum, has been one of the most influential voices and actors in the preservation and restoration projects;

Ada Rosa Alfonso, the current director of The Finca Vigia Museum, and Isabel Ferrero, the current deputy director of the museum;

Architect Enrique Hernandez Castillo;

Structural engineer Livan Yanes Diaz;

Historic preservation architects Fernando Sanchez Rodriguez and Marco Antonio Vidal Garcia;

Conservators Elisa Serrano Gonzalez, Liabys Alfonso Perez, Rosalba Diaz Quintana, and Roberto Abaen Siglen;

Arborist Rafael Ibanez San Miguel and Manuel Valle Lopez from the Institute of Forestry Research.

Their leadership, participation, expertise, vision, and generosity have been the essential heart of this successful collaboration.

I know I speak for many Americans when I say that we share their pride and joy in having participated day by day in the restoration and preservation of Hemingway's legacy in Cuba.

I count each of them as a valued colleague and as a friend, and I feel honored to have had the privilege, even in a small way, of having worked with them on this historic project.

Initially known as the Hemingway Preservation Foundation, the nonprofit Finca Vigia Foundation has been the critical coordinating agent of U.S. professionals and technical experts who have contributed their expertise, skills, time, and passion to this major preservation undertaking.

Since 2004, the Foundation has harnessed the talents, skill, and collaboration of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Social Science Research Council, Mystic Seaport, and the Northeast Document Conservation Center to create teams of engineers and architects, of preservationists and document conservators, and of botanists, builders, and photographers to:

Architecturally restore and preserve Hemingway's home to its 1950s splendor;

Restore Hemingway's famous yacht, the Pilar;

Conserve and digitize more than 10,000 documents, 4,000 photographs, and 5 rare Hemingway scrapbooks;

Preserve these original documents in Cuba and bring digital images to the United States to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston;

Design, in a joint U.S.-Cuban collaboration, an onsite archival storage facility with wet and dry conservation laboratories.

There are so many individuals, U.S. companies, and foundations that have made the restoration of Hemingway's house a personal passion. They have dedicated time and talent, materials, and funding to this initiative for over a decade. I would just like to mention a few:

First are the foundations whose early contributions allowed this project and The Finca Vigia Foundation to get its feet on the ground, explore with its Cuban partners how to bring this dream to fruition, and put the first cornerstones in place. They are the Ford Foundation, the J.M. Kaplan Fund, The Christopher Reynolds Foundation, the Stewart Mott Charitable Trust, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

Next, I would like to recognize the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which has recognized The Finca Vigia Foundation in Cuba as a U.S. Historic Preservation site—the only such site outside of the United States—and whose experience and technical expertise in preservation and cultural conservation have been invaluable.

I would especially like to note the contributions of Richard Moe, the former President of the National Trust, and Paul Edmondson, the current general counsel with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Several foundations and U.S. companies have been involved directly in the preservation projects or in providing financial support for this work.

The lead sponsor for document conservation has been the EMC Corporation, headquartered in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and especially Bill Teuber, Chris Goode, and Joel Schwartz from the company. EMC also reached out to Intel and Emulex, which also provided financial support to the project.

The lead sponsors for the construction of archival storage and conservation laboratories are the Caterpillar Foundation and Caterpillar, Inc., along with the AT&T Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and American Express.

U.S. professionals who have been critical contributors and participants in the technical, document conservation, construction, and architectural teams are William Dupont, the former chief architect with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and currently a professor at the University of Texas, San Antonio; architect planners Leland Cott and Henry Moss with Bruner/Cott & Associates; structural engineer Michael Henry with Watson & Henry Associates; structural engineer Robert Silman with Robert Silman Associates; landscape architects Patricia O'Donnell with Heritage Landscapes; preservation architect Mary DeNadai

with John Milner Architects; and Ronald Staley, a construction specialist from Christman Company in Lansing, Michigan.

Also very much involved are collections conservationist Wendy Claire Jessup and wooden boat curator Dana Hewson with Mystic Seaport.

In the first years of this project, attorney Thomas D. Herman provided invaluable pro bono advice, and attorney Michael Gurdak and his team from Jones Day have provided essential services throughout the project.

Special recognition must also be paid to the tireless work and engagement of Mary-Jo Adams and Robert Vila. Mary-Jo is the executive director of The Finca Vigia Foundation and is its very heart, soul, and beating blood. Without her efforts, this project would not have been possible.

Bob Vila is a builder, a well-known TV host especially of the PBS program "This Old House," and is a recognized building consultant. Bob has been involved on the ground in Cuba with overseeing every phase of the restoration of Hemingway's house and grounds.

Along with Jenny Phillips, he is the co-chair of The Finca Vigia Foundation, but more than anything, we know that, when Bob is on site in Cuba, all is right with the world and, if it isn't, he will make sure that it is.

Finally, I would like to recognize the work of Michael Mershon, who recently left my staff and who worked with me for over a decade on the Hemingway project.

Right now U.S. and Cuban technical teams are constructing a facility on the grounds to carry out on-site archival storage with wet and dry conservation laboratories. Known as the "taller," which means "workshop" in Spanish, this facility will ensure the longevity of the Hemingway papers. It will be the first building constructed in Cuba using U.S. materials and ingenuity since the 1950s.

The Cuban Ministry of Culture views this project as a possible prototype to be replicated across the country in the preservation of cultural heritage. The construction of this critical facility is possible because of the new regulations announced by President Obama in December of 2014.

With very little money and largely during a period of daunting obstacles created by a tense political climate, The Finca Vigia Foundation and its team of experts, in close collaboration with Cuban professionals and experts, have done a great service for the American people, the Cuban people, and, indeed, all of the people of the world.

With passion and professional skill, they recognized that the life, memory, books, papers, and home of Ernest Hemingway are above politics and policies, which are fleeting, while art is eternal. They understand that the legacy of Ernest Hemingway is a shared heritage, belonging to both Cubans and Americans, and in one of the best mod-

els of what can happen when Americans and Cubans collaborate, they have made sure that it will never be lost.

I am so very grateful to Jenny and Frank Phillips for walking into my office 13 years ago and sparking a remarkable and personal journey for me. It has offered me the rare privilege to meet and work with so many extraordinary Cubans and Americans and to participate in preserving our shared heritage around the life and artistic achievements of Ernest Hemingway. I cannot wait to see what the next chapter brings.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE STEVE ISRAEL, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVE ISRAEL, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: I, Steve Israel, am submitting my resignation from the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy effective immediately. It has been a privilege and honor to serve in this position and one that I will never forget.

I believe strongly in the importance of robust programming for future and current military leaders facing ever evolving threats and challenges and West Point exceeds this standard with the top-notch education provided to cadets. In my visits to the Academy, I have been profoundly impressed by the leadership, students and staff, who should be commended for their service to our country.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Academy moving forward as a member of the House Appropriations Committee and value my time on the Board of Visitors tremendously.

Sincerely,

STEVE ISRAEL,
Member of Congress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical procedure.

Mr. PAYNE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1875. An act to support enhanced accountability for United States assistance to Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

S. 2845. An act to extend the termination of sanctions with respect to Venezuela under the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014; to the Committee